



Reuters

Elvis impersonators Scot Bruce, Brendan Paul and Matt J. Way warm up before a casting call for a four-hour miniseries about Elvis Presley in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Elvis sightings abound in L.A.

Reuters

LOS ANGELES — It was the ultimate Elvis sighting.

Some 200 sneering, hip-swiveling Elvis Presley look-alikes in pompadours, leather jackets, jumpsuits and blue suede shoes lined up for an open casting call Wednesday outside CBS studios, hoping to play the king of rock 'n' roll on TV.

Elvis impersonators from as far away as Buffalo, N.Y.; Boise, Idaho; Toronto and even Scotland turned Sound Stage 46 into a virtual international house of Presley as they filed one by one before casting directors and producers to perform a few bars of "Don't Be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock" or "Hound Dog."

Most, including beefy, middle-age candidates dressed as the Las Vegas-era Elvis, were politely thanked for their efforts and sent on their way. A lucky few — all of them practitioners of the younger, thinner Presley look — were asked to stick around to read a few lines from a script.

One of them was Gino Monopoli, 29, a soft-spoken professional Elvis "tribute artist" from Toronto, who like most of the contenders, spoke of Presley in

unbridled superlatives.

"Elvis was the epitome of cool. You could bring him out today, in 2004, and he'd still rock," Monopoli said.

Monopoli acknowledged being caught a bit off-guard when he got a chance to read for the part. "The southern accent was a little tough. I had about 10 minutes to get it down."

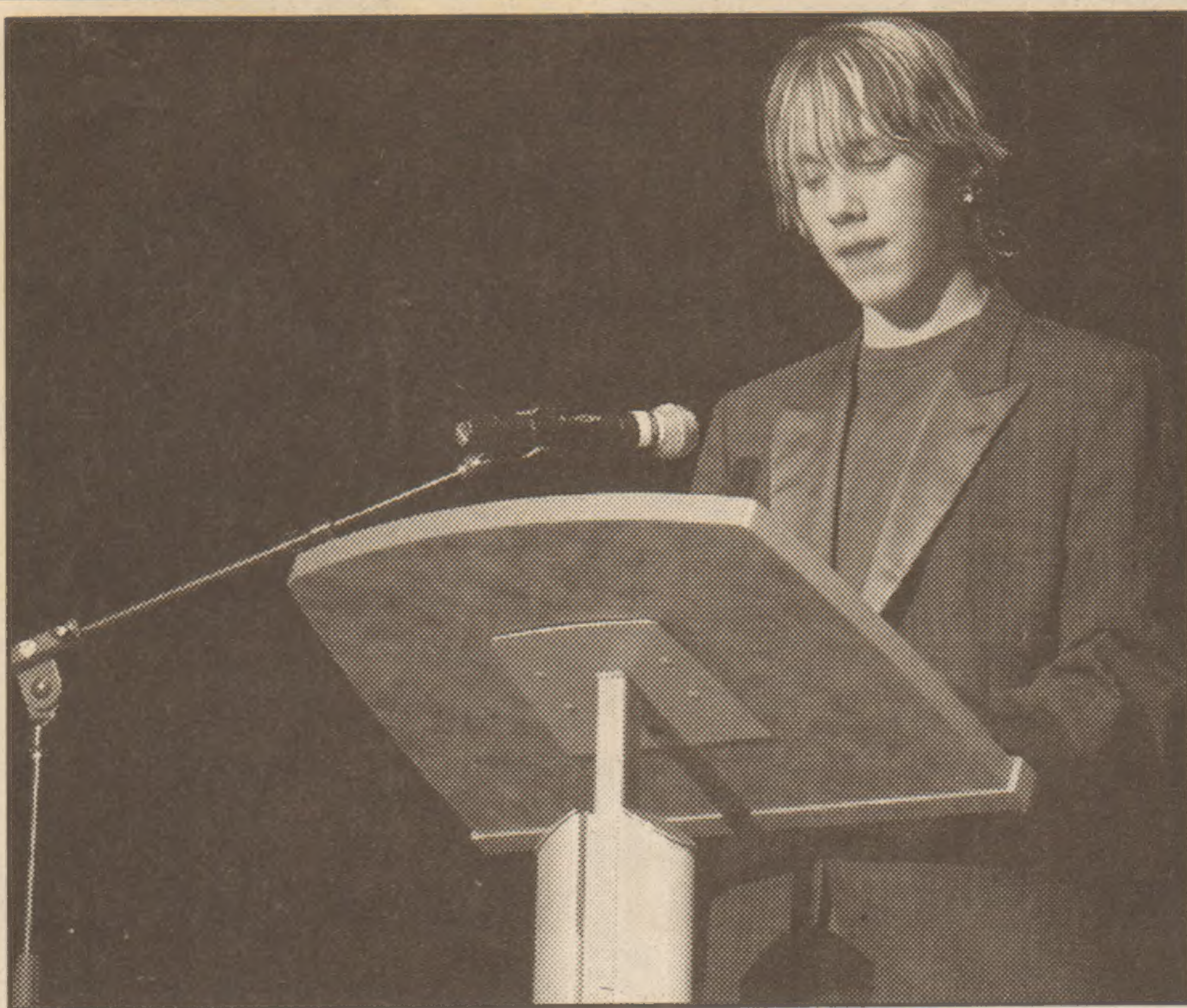
Organizers said they were looking for someone who captures the "essence of Elvis" and bears a close resemblance for an upcoming CBS miniseries about his early career.

Director Jim Sadwith said he hoped to find a newcomer who possessed "the sexuality, the vulnerability and the danger of Elvis We're not looking for just an impersonator."

The program will trace Presley's rise to fame from age 18 to his triumphant 1968 comeback at age 33. No air date has been set. Presley died in 1977 at age 42.

While all the candidates had to perform a Presley number for the tryout, the winner won't actually sing in the miniseries. He'll lip-sync to Presley recordings licensed especially for the program.

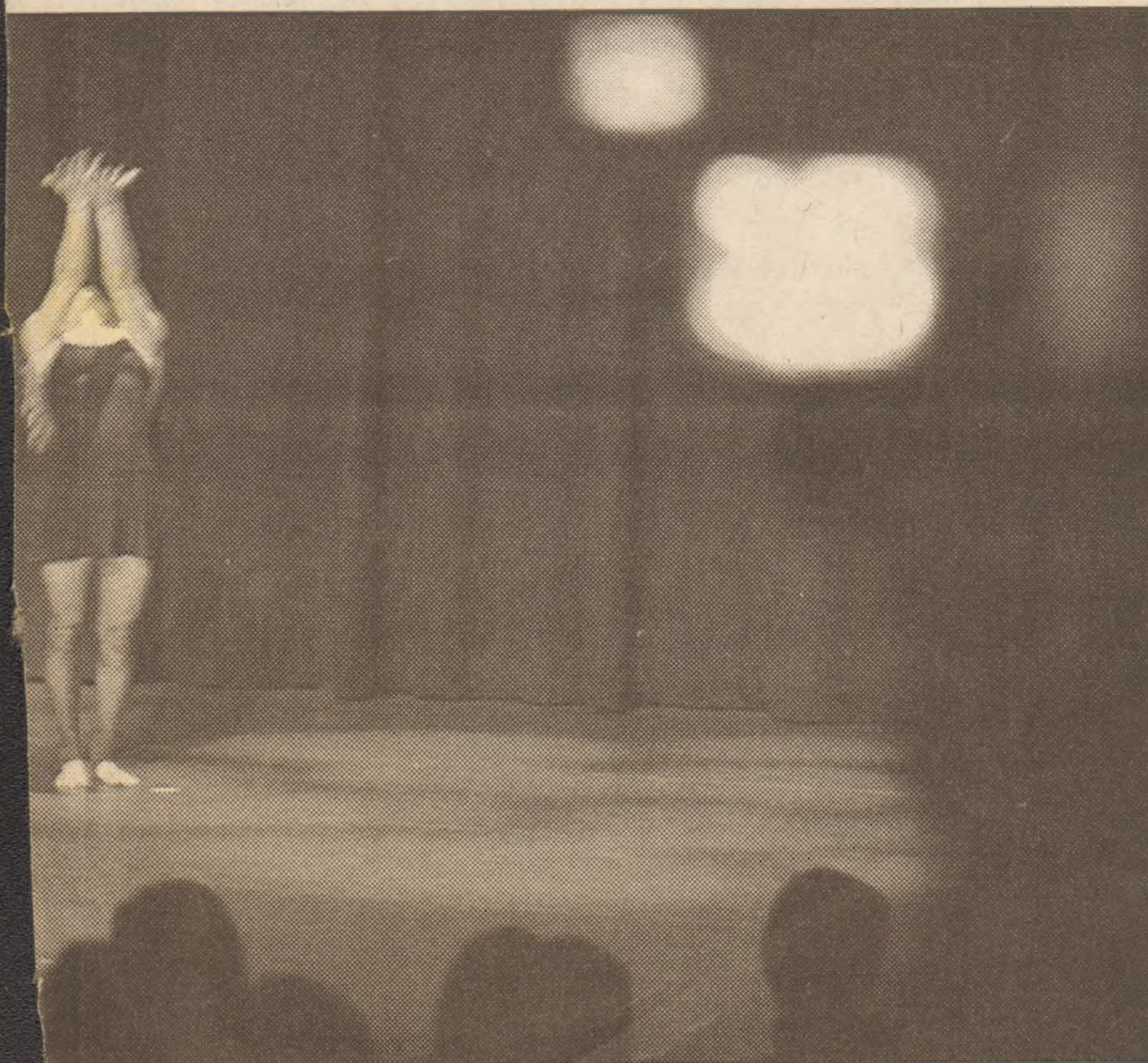
Kids Stuff



Artsy evening

Students showed off their skills during a talent show at Arts at the Capitol Theater, a fine arts-centered magnet school in downtown Willimantic, Wednesday evening. ABOVE: Jared White reads his, 'Guess Who and Where and So On' poem. LEFT: Hilary Osborne reads her poem 'Map.' BELOW: Suki John performs a Tanto dance.

Vlad Fatu photos



Imagine